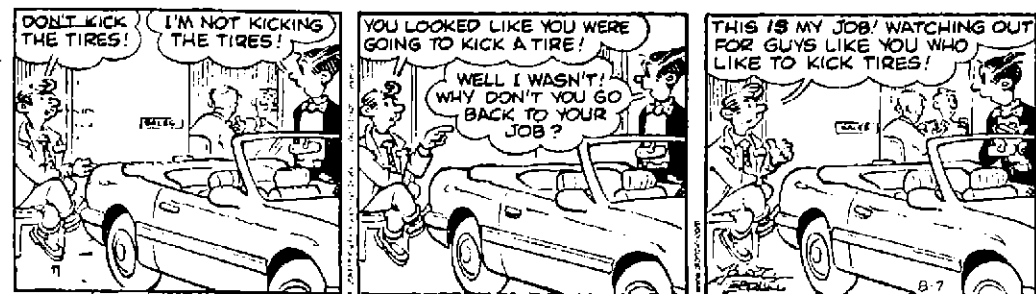


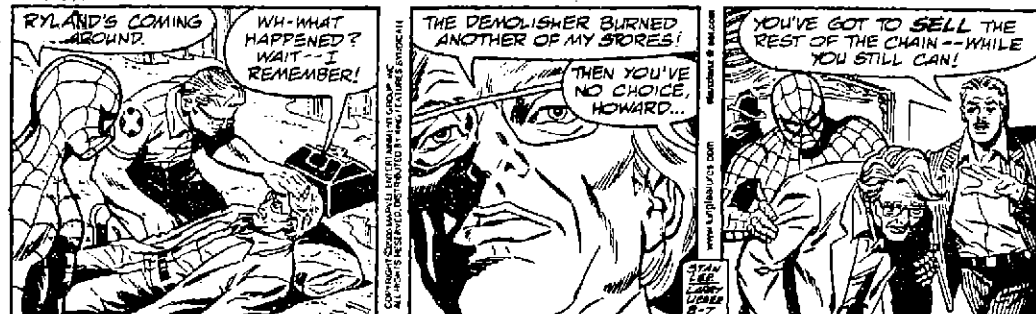
BLONDIE



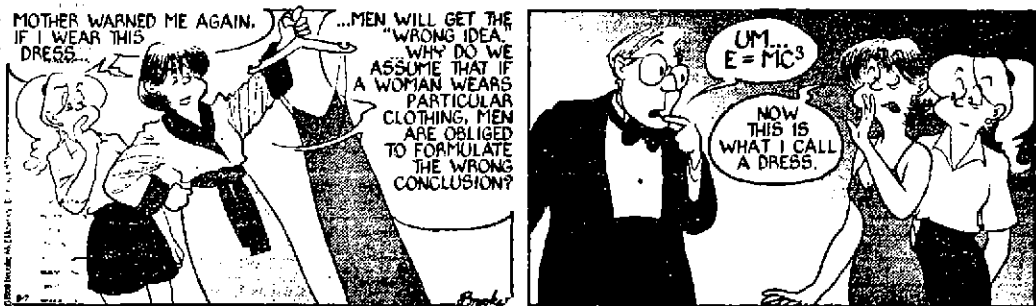
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



JUMP START



ROSE IS ROSE



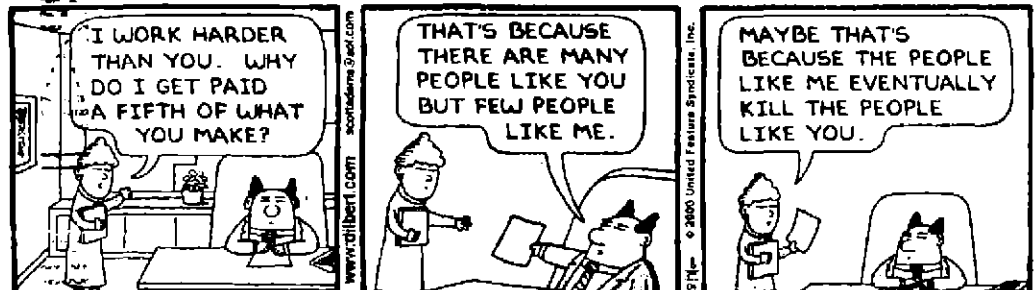
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



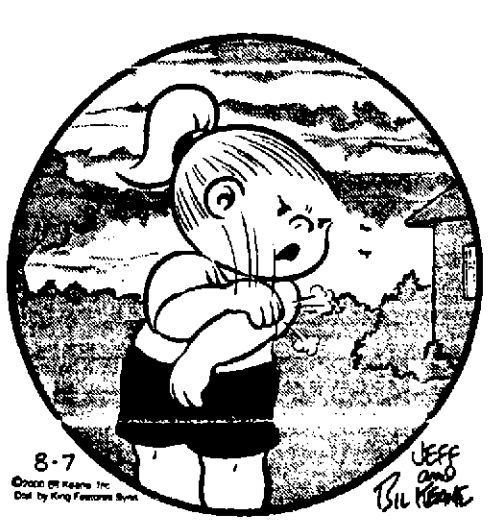
DILBERT



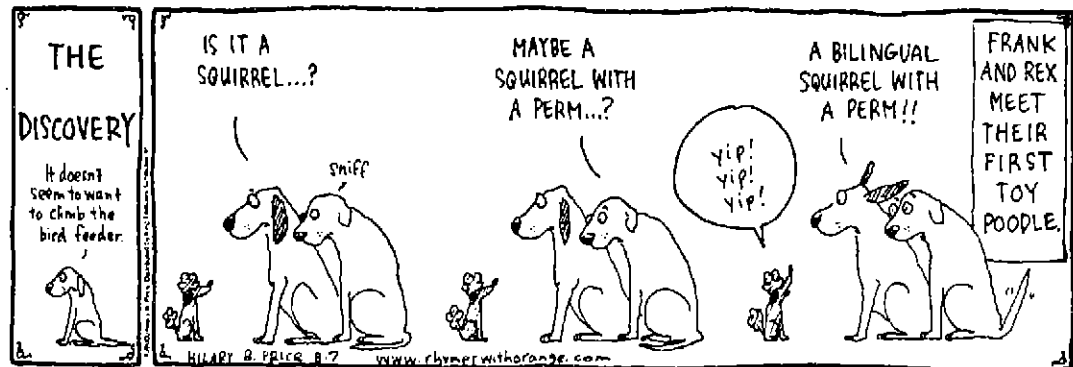
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Songwriter Felice Bryant is 75.
Writer-producer Stan Freberg is 74.
Bluesman Magic Slim is 63. Actress Verna Bloom is 61.
Humorist Garrison Keillor is 58. Singer B. J. Thomas is 58.
Singer Lana Cantrell is 57.
Actor John Glover is 56. Actor David Rasche is 56.
Country singer Rodney Crowell is 50. Actor Wayne Knight is 45. Actor David Duchovny is 40. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 37.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

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R	T	U	G	E	A	O	Triple Word Score
E	A	B	Y	M	E	E	3x Letter Triple
X	M	E	I	V	U	U	Double Word Score
W	S	T	C	H	A	A	

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 7 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Banks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 8-7-00 © 2000 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

HONG KONG

LSIFCZ WURPMJHEC
KANIHC AZVXUSQNL
JOCIGEC IZEYXVTG
RPWIANCLSRNJHEN
CDALPTYEWAOVTRI
MONSOONALPLBNLP
KLIRGORUECOBRZP
XLIWTUNTOSCRPAI
OAGNIKNABMMLJIH
GRAESRAWMUIPODS
BCAYXSDNALSIOO2

Saturday's unlisted clue: PETER PAN

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Monday's unlisted clue hint: FORMER - OF BRITAIN

200 islands	China	Monsoonal	Shipping
Asia	Dollar	Mountains	Subtropical
Banking	Harbor	Opium wars	Victoria
Cantonese	Kowloon	Port	

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Tuesday, Aug. 8

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A judgment will be made in your favor, but you might be surprised to find the victory hollow.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Remember that a compliment can be a double-edged blade.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't force an analysis of a situation unless you genuinely want to hear the answer.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A sense of sluggishness will only add to the trial of getting up a steep hill.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You might unknowingly offend someone with a flippant remark.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Keeping in mind the needs of the group will have its own personal rewards.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An invitation might feel like the beginning of a whole new chapter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make sure that you're not being seduced by mere promises.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) An unexpected encounter will lead to a whole new adventure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Keeping your ideals firmly in mind will help you deal appropriately with a moral dilemma.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) In the company of good friends, nothing is impossible and all is permitted.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) A heavy-handed authority figure might shake you out of a most pleasant daydream.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

In today's no-trump game, South has eight running tricks. However, West's attack against South's weakness creates problems. With time on the side of the enemy, declarer must make his next move with wisdom. West's heart lead is an unwelcome sight. Regardless of whether South wins his ace or dummy's king, he is faced with the burden of an immediate choice. Should he try to develop a ninth winner in spades, or should he choose a desperate lead toward dummy's club king? South can develop a third spade winner if he finds that the suit splits 3-3. The chances for this split are almost 36 percent. He can also score his ninth winner if West has the club king. That chance is 50-50. West is just as likely to have the ace as East is. The thinking man's choice is to lead to dummy's club king — a 50 percent chance is obviously better than one of 36 percent. If East has the club ace and spades are not 3-3, will it cost more in undertricks to lead clubs immediately? No, this is only an illusion. With the heart suit stopped, even if East can run five club winners, the most South can lose is five tricks.

NORTH

♠ K 9 6 2
♥ K 4
♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ K 7 2

WEST

♠ J 3
♥ Q 10 7 6 5
♦ 7 5 3
♣ A 9 5

EAST

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ A 9 4 10
♦ 9 8
♣ Q J 10

SOUTH

♠ A 7 4
♥ A 8
♦ A K J 4
♣ 8 6 4 3

Vulnerable: North-South

Dealer: South

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: Heart six

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0626

ACROSS

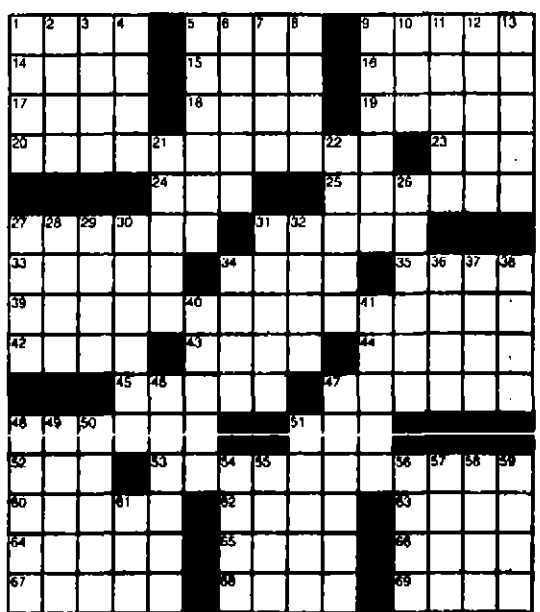
1 Fellow
5 Contented
9 Noise at a street protest
14 Film part
15 Put on the payroll
16 Mandel of "St. Elsewhere"
17 Aid in crime
18 Look at flirtatiously
19 Make reparations
20 Alternative to briefs
23 Barbie's guy
24 Baseball great Mel
25 Says
27 Russian villas
31 Change, as a hemline
33 Brand of sweetener
34 Leave out
35 Singer Paul
39 First newspapers on the street
42 Like most basketball stars
43 Decorative vases
44 Victorious
45 Chose
47 Beginnings
48 Drunk as a skunk
51 Animal that beats its chest
52 Superman foe
53 Part of a girl's sock hop attire
59 Believe without question
62 Young Lennon

DOWN

1 Taurus; Bull; Cancer
2 Penniless person
3 Trebek of "Jeopardy!"
4 Townsman of the Who
5 Haunted house inhabitants
6 Traffic controller
7 Singer Guthrie
8 Stag or hart
9 Celibate
10 Sexy
11 Came to
12 Frisco footballer
13 New drivers, usually
21 Willy Wonka creator Dahl
22 --frutti
26 Choo-choo
27 -- of gratitude
28 Greenish-blue
29 Select
30 Venerate
31 Change, as the Constitution
32 Jar tops
34 Folklore meany

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

STEPS ASIDE IDES
PAPER MONEY NEXT
AMELIORATE CATO
CART REM COOLIO
ERG RECORDING
RANOFF SENTENCE
SCENET SIT GTS
TERT LAND
ONETOTEN TOWHEE
STARKNES ORR
TERESA UPS FRAS
AREA MARIONETTE
DINT ETERNITIES
ANDY SCREENTEST



Puzzle by Peter Gordon

51 San Antonio landmark
54 Norway's capital
55 Not working, as a battery
58 Cabbage-like vegetable
57 Dr. Frankenstein's helper
58 Singer McEntire
59 Golf shop purchase
61 Empty

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5656 (95c per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.